

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-5 and 7-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Adam et al. (US 6,010,403).

3. Regarding claim 1, Adam discloses a device for interactive video, the device comprising:

video reception means for receiving video image information, (Column 3, lines 44-53)

character generator means for generating at least one user controllable character, (Column 4, lines 11-26)

detection means for detecting any coincidence of a character and a video object associated with the received video image information, (Column 4, lines 57-58)

and triggering means for triggering an event in response to any detected coincidence (Column 4, lines 58-62).

4. Regarding claim 2, Adam discloses the device according to claim 1, further comprising control input means for receiving character control signals (Column 3, lines 29-43 and column 4, lines 17-23).

5. Regarding claim 3, Adam discloses the device according to claim 1, wherein an event involves device control of the user controllable character (Column 8, lines 1-19).
6. Regarding claim 4, Adam discloses the device according to claim 1, wherein the video reception means are arranged for additionally receiving video object information associated with the received video image information (Column 4, lines 44-56).
7. Regarding claim 5, Adam discloses the device according to claim 1, further comprising video object information generator means for generating video object information associated with the received video image information (Column 4, lines 57-62 and column 6, lines 4-12).
8. Regarding claim 7, Adam discloses the device according to claim 1, wherein the character generator means, the detection means and/or the triggering means are constituted by a microprocessor (Column 3, lines 63-66). It is inherent in the art that a computer contains a microprocessor.
9. Regarding claim 8, Adam discloses the device according to claim 1, wherein the user controllable character is a car, preferably a racing car (Figure 1).
10. Regarding claim 9, Adam discloses a system for interactive video, the system comprising:
a video source for providing video image information and any associated video object information, (Column 3, lines 54-56)

transmission means for transmitting the video image information and any associated video object information, (Column 3, lines 57-61)

reception means for receiving the transmitted video information and any associated video object information, (Column 3, lines 62-65; each computer receives data).

a display screen for displaying the received video information and any associated video object information, (Column 4, lines 44-56)

and a device according to claim 1 (Figures 1 and 2).

11. Regarding claim 10, Adam discloses the system according to claim 9, further comprising a video object information generator for generating video object information on the basis of video information (Column 5, line 64 – column 6, line 12).

12. Regarding claim 11, Adam discloses the system according to claim 9, further comprising a control device arranged for producing character control signals in response to input from a user (Column 8, lines 1-19).

13. Regarding claim 12, Adam discloses a method of providing interactive video, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving video image information, (Column 3, lines 44-53)

generating at least one user controllable character, (Column 4, lines 11-26)

detecting any coincidence of a character and a video object associated with the video image information, (Column 4, lines 57-58)

and triggering an event in response to any detected coincidence (Column 4, lines 58-62).

14. Regarding claim 13, Adam discloses the method according to claim 12, comprising the additional step of: receiving video object information associated with the received video image information (Column 4, lines 33-56).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

15. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

16. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Adam et al. (US 6,010,403) in view of Burdick (US 6,155,928).

17. Regarding claim 6, Adam discloses all limitations as discussed in claim 1.

Adam does not disclose the device according to claim 1, constituted by a set-top box or a game console.

Burdick discloses the device according to claim 1, constituted by a set-top box or a game console (Column 6, line 64 – column 7, line 17).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Adam, to utilize a single console in order to run a simulator as disclosed by Burdick, in order to bring the simulator car video game

to the user by taking advantage of the processing power of the home/game con sole (Figure 4, element 54 and column 7, lines 38-46).

Conclusion

18. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Rains (US 4,148,485) Driving Games Method for Automatically Controlled Cars.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to PHI HOANG whose telephone number is (571)270-3417. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri Alternating Fridays, 7:30am-5:00pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hai Tran can be reached on 571-272-7305. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Phi Hoang/
Examiner, Art Unit 4178
December 10, 2007

/Hai Tran/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 4178